



RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO AGGRESSIVELY EXPAND COVID-19 TESTING AND PROVIDE ADEQUATE STAFFING TO ENHANCE TRACKING OF PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH INFECTED PERSONS.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic of international concern; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States of America declared a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Health ("DOH") reports that the numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to increase daily, that a number of those hospitalized have died, and that community-spread cases have now become of greater concern than travel-related cases; and

WHEREAS, City and County of Honolulu ("City") and State of Hawaii ("State") officials have been working diligently to implement emergency orders to attempt to flatten the curve of the number of COVID-19 cases in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor issued a Proclamation declaring the existence of a state of emergency relating to COVID-19 ("the Proclamation"); and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, by the Supplementary Proclamation, the Governor, among other things, ordered all residents to heed any orders and guidance of Federal and State public health officials, including but not limited to, the imposition of social distancing measures, to control the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, by the Second Supplemental Proclamation, the Governor, among other things, ordered all persons entering Hawaii to be subject to mandatory self-quarantine; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, by the Third Supplementary Proclamation, the Governor ordered all persons in Hawaii to stay at home or in their place of residence, except that persons may leave their home or place of residence for essential activities or to engage in certain designated essential businesses and operations; and

WHEREAS, the State has implemented the testing of persons displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19, and as of April 8, 2020, over 15,000 individuals have been tested by private clinical and State laboratories; and



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No. **20-93, FD1**

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WHEREAS, a mounting number of recent scientific studies are finding that COVID-19 may be transmitted by persons who are asymptomatic or presymptomatic; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has stated that as many as 25 percent of persons infected by COVID-19 may be asymptomatic and that these individuals contribute to the transmission of the disease; and

WHEREAS, proactively testing persons who are infected by COVID-19 early in their illness before they show symptoms would allow such persons to be isolated and thereby reduce the risks of onward transmission; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration has recently authorized testing technologies that may play a critical role in the fight against COVID-19:

- A serological antibody test that identifies individuals who have overcome an infection and have developed an immune response, the information of which may be used to guide policy decisions regarding stay-at-home and social distancing orders, and**
- A rapid (13 minutes or less), portable isothermal test for the qualitative detection and diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, from nasal, nasopharyngeal and throat swabs; and**

WHEREAS, Apple and Google have announced a joint effort to develop a digital contact tracing app in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization ("UHERO"), in its report entitled "Using Extensive Testing and Geographical Isolation to Mitigate the Coronavirus Crisis in Hawaii," dated March 25, 2020, recommends that the State government should rapidly implement a plan for the widespread availability of testing for anyone concerned about possible exposure and proactively trace the contacts of all found infected with coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have warned that unless a policy of very broad COVID-19 testing is implemented to quickly and effectively contain the virus, the alternative may be to maintain strict restrictions on social contact and related measures until a vaccine is available, a process that may take from 12 to 18 months; and



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WHEREAS, the DOH had instructed healthcare providers not to test asymptomatic persons, even if they are in close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 ("Medical Advisory: Update #7—Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)", March 25, 2020); and

WHEREAS, however, on April 8, 2020, the DOH announced that it has initiated a new expanded protocol under which people who have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 will be tested, regardless of whether they are showing symptoms; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the Hawaii Department of Health to aggressively expand COVID-19 testing, including the comprehensive and thorough testing of asymptomatic and presymptomatic individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that persons tested for COVID-19 should include all close contacts of persons who have been tested positive for COVID-19 and essential workers whose jobs require extensive community interaction including, but not limited to, health care workers, first responders, and employees of grocery stores and pharmacies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii administration is urged to transfer state workers and utilize police officers, teachers, and other workers as feasible, as recommended in the UHERO report dated April 3, 2020, to provide adequate staffing for the tracking of contacts of persons infected with COVID-19 and to reach out to Google and Apple regarding the possible use of a contact tracing app; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii DOH is urged to work with hospitals, laboratories, and the health agencies of other governments to expand the State's testing capacity and acquire and utilize state-of-the-art testing technologies, such as serological antibody testing and rapid point-of-care testing machines; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Hawaii Department of Health, the Mayor, and the Governor.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ron Menor

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

April 9, 2020
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 20-93, FD1

Introduced: 04/09/20 By: RON MENOR
TOMMY WATERS

Committee: COUNCIL

Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO AGGRESSIVELY EXPAND COVID-19 TESTING
AND FOR PROVIDE ADEQUATE STAFFING TO ENHANCE TRACKING OF PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN IN
CONTACT WITH INFECTED PERSONS.

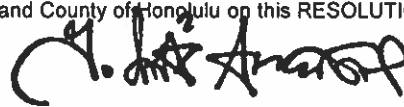
Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

04/15/20 COUNCIL AMENDED TO HAND-CARRIED FD1.
8 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE,
TSUNEYOSHI, WATERS.
1 ABSENT: FUKUNAGA.
RESOLUTION 20-93, FD1 WAS ADOPTED.
8 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE,
TSUNEYOSHI, WATERS.
1 ABSENT: FUKUNAGA.

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



IKAIKA ANDERSON, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER